

# County commissioner sponsors measure urging INS to release unaccompanied Haitian children

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jimmy Morales proposed a resolution to the Board of County Commissioners on Dec. 17 that urges the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to release 11 Haitian children who arrived on the shores of Key Biscayne on Oct. 29 and are being detained without parental super-

vision.

The 11 children, who are now being held at the Boystown Catholic Home for Children in West Kendall, were in some cases separated from their parents at Krome Detention Center, handcuffed with plastic restraints during transport to their detention locations, and then housed in hotel rooms for

11 days without access to learning activities, recreation or fresh air before being moved to Boystown. Seven of the children have family sponsors in the U.S. who have requested their release, and the resolution recommends that the four other children be immediately transferred to foster care.

"One of the greatest injus-

tices of the Haitians immigrants being detained by INS are the children who have been separated from their families for over a month," said Commissioner Morales. "It would be a wonderful treat for these children to be released to their relatives or, in some cases, foster home families, who they can share the holidays with."